FALL ISSUE

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NO. 13

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HUMAN TORCH

DEAD END
THE COUNTRY IS SHAKEN BY A MYRIAD OF PETTY CRIMES - WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON UNTIL TORCH AND TORO START TO INVESTIGATE AND MEET (THE END!)
1000 LBS.
1000 LBS.

COMIC ART COLLECTION

"CLAMP" CASEY WAS A TOUGH GANG LEADER --- TOO TOUGH AND CRUEL SO FAR AS HIS MEN WERE CONCERNED. HIS DICTATORIAL METHODS WERE UNBEARABLE --AND SO THEY WERE DRIVEN TO ACT!

WHAT'S THIS, A MUTINY? HA! HA! NOW STAND BACK YOU RATS, BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT!

NOT THIS TIME, CLAMP, --YOU'RE THROUGH!

THE DYNAMIC "CLAMP" ACTS --

THROUGH AM I? HA! HA! DIE, YOU DOGS! DIE! HA! HA!

BUT "CLAMP" CASEY'S ONE-MAN MASSACRE BACKFIRES -- THEY HAD FILLED HIS GUN WITH BLANKS --

HAW-- YOU'RE STILL STANDING! HA! HA! YOU'RE DEAD! ALL OF YOU! HA! HA! KEEP BACK!

YOU'RE FINISHED, CLAMP: YOU'VE DRAWN FOR A BLANK KEEP!

NO! AG-HH! HELP!

TAKE HIM MEN!

HEL-- UHHH!

"CLAMP" CASEY, ARCH CRIMINAL DICKER OF THE UNDERWORLD-- IS TAKEN FOR HIS LAST RIDE--

WHY DIDN'T YOU SNIVELING WEASEL KILL ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE!

WE'VE BEEN PLANNIN' THIS A LONG TIME, CLAMP. LET 'IM HAVE OUR RUN-- FASTER, MAIL!

THE CARAVAN OF DEATH COMES TO A HALT AT THE EDGE OF DEVIL'S DROP --AND PREPARE CLAMP'S SENDOFF!

IN YOU GO-- THE DRIVER OF YOUR OWN HEARSE, HA-HA!

YEAH-- AND THIS GASOLINE'LL FIX YOU IN CASE YOU GET COLD FEET ON YOUR WAY DOWN! HA! HA!

NO --- PLEASE!

THE GAG IS TOUCHED OFF AND "CLAMP" IS ON HIS WAY!

DOWN GOES CASEY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF --- WHILE WE GO ON ALONE! HA! HA! HA!

EEEEEAAAG!

LIKE A HURTLING METEOR --- "CLAMP" CRASHES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF IN A TERRIFIC BURST OF FLAME AND TWISTED METAL!

THE DICTATOR IS DEAD! LONG LIVE CRIME!

CRASH CRUNCH

UGHH

THE FLAMING, BASHED, AND BROKEN DEATH CAR HITS THE BLACK WATERS WITH A HORRIFYING HISS TO SETTLE TO THE DEPTHS FOREVER ---

HISSSS!

THE JUBILANT CRIMINALS CELEBRATE FAR INTO THE NIGHT--

WE ARE FREE - EVERY MAN HIS OWN BOSS!

DEMOCRATIC CRIME! HA! HA! HA!

THERE FOLLOWS A SERIES OF SLOPPY UNORGANIZED, SMALL CRIMES ---

I AM BLIND

CRASH

--- WHICH FINALLY REACHES THE ATTENTION OF THE FLAME MASTERS. THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO!

LOOKS LIKE A STORE WINDOW'S BEEN BLOWN IN, TORCH! THAT'S THE THIRD ONE TO-NIGHT

YES--AND AT WIDELY SEPARATED POINTS! THERE'S MORE THAN ONE GANG AT WORK IN THIS TOWN KIGGO! LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

IT'S A JEWELRY SHOP ROBBERY, TORCH -- PROBABLY CLAMP CASEY'S MOB!

PRETTY CRUDE FOR CASEY, TORCH! EXPLOSIONS AROUND JEWELS! HMMM...

HELP! POLICE! THAT CAR!

AFTER 'EM, KIDDO!

YOU BET!

PULL OVER, SWEET HEART!

AHH! GIVE IT THE GAS! WE CAN OUT RUN 'EM!

SORRY, MISTER --- BUT YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT!

THE STEERING WHEEL BECOMES TOO HOT TO HANDLE --

YIPE!

SOME GUYS NEVER LEARN!

PULL 'EM OUT FAST, TORCH!

CRASH!

TURNING THEIR FLAMES OFF OUR FIERY FRIENDS SAVE THE WORTHLESS LIVES OF THE CROOKS!

MINE'S OUT COLD, TORCH!

SAME HERE -- AND I WANTED TO HAVE WORDS WITH THEM -- TOO BAD!

TORCH TURNS THE CROOKS OVER TO THE LAW.

PROBABLY CLAMP CASEY'S MEN, BUT--

CASEY? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? HIS MOB REVOLTED -- CUT HIM TO RIBBONS! HE'S BEEN DEAD ALMOST A WEEK NOW, BURNED, BROKEN, AND DROWNED!

NICE BOYS!

WHERE TO NOW, TORCH?

POLICE HEADQUARTERS --SEEMS LIKE WE'RE A LITTLE BEHIND IN THE LATEST DISPATCHES FROM THE UNDERWORLD!

NOW TO SEE CHIEF WINTERS. FUNNY WE DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT CASEY'S DEATH BEFORE THIS--

HOPE HE'S IN!

AT THE DESK--

CHIEF WINTERS? HE'S ON THE ROOF TAKING A SUN BATH--THE ELEVATOR'S RIGHT THERE!

THANKS OFFICER--

--BUT WE DON'T NEED THE ELEVATOR!

WHAT TH--? OH--IT'S TORCH AND TORO!

THERE'S THE CHIEF NOW--NO WONDER THERE'S SO MUCH CRIME!

THAT'S NOT FAIR TORO--HE MIGHT HAVE HIT ONE TODAY. LET'S SURPRISE HIM--HA! HA!

GREAT GODFREY! THE JOINT'S HOT TODAY! WHEN I--

WH--?? BLAST YOU TWO PORTABLE HEATING SYSTEMS! IT'S A GOOD THING I HAVE A STRONG HEART!

EASY, CHIEF--JUST CLOWNING!

CLOWNING, EH? A MAN CAN'T TAKE A MINUTE'S REST IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITHOUT SOME WAG ---

TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR FEET, WINTERS. WE'VE REALLY COME ON BUSINESS!

BUSINESS? WHAT BUSINESS?

THE BUSINESS OF CLAMP CASEY'S LAST RIDE, CHIEF! WHAT'S THE STORY?

YEA - WASN'T HE A SORT OF FUEHRER TO HIS BOYS?

FUEHRER? YES -- DICTATOR -- ANY NAME LIKE THAT FITTED HIM - AND HIS WILD LUST FOR POWER NETTED HIM THE SAME FATE ALL DICTATORS GET IN DUE TIME!

YES, WE PICKED UP TWO OF HIS FORMER MOBSTERS LAST NIGHT - I HAVEN'T HAD ANY REST IN A WEEK. THEY'RE RUNNING WILD! IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO GET THE FACTS OUT OF THEM!

BLACK SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPARD, EH?

JUST ABOUT, TORCH - IT WASN'T SO BAD WATCHING OUT FOR LARGE SINGLE CRIMES IN THE PAST. BUT NOW - TWENTY SMALL CRIMES GOING ON IN TWENTY PLACES AT THE SAME TIME! WOW!

WELL, WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP, CHIEF. AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CASEY ANY MORE!

THANKS TORCH, TORO... LOTS OF LUCK!

THEY'RE A GREAT PAIR, THOSE TWO. TOO BAD I DON'T KNOW FIFTY MORE LIKE 'EM!

AFTER A FULL AFTERNOON OF HUNTING.

IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR MICE WITH AN ELEPHANT GUN- I'M STARVED!

THERE'S A DINER. LET'S GRAB A HAMBURGER!

SO CASEY'S GONE, EH? HE WAS QUITE A CHARACTER!

SMART APPLE- A LITTLE BIT TOO SMART, I GUESS!

YET- AND IF YOU'RE ALL SMART, YOU'LL DO AS I SAY! PUT YOUR HANDS UP! FAST!

UH-UH!- PUT YOUR HANDS UP KID- THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE!

WELL-- OKAY, BUT--

SHH- HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE US. WE'LL LET HIM LEAD US TO HIS HANGOUT!

I GETCHA-- THEN WE'LL SEE WHO THE NEW BOSS IS-- IF ANY!

KEEP 'EM HIGH!

THE THIEF MAKES A FAST GETAWAY!

POLICE! ROBBERY!- WHY DIDN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?!

YOU LOOKED PRETTY SCARED YOURSELF FRIEND! AFTER HIM NOW, TORCH!

NOT FOR A MINUTE-

THE RAIN MATTERS! TAKE UP THE CHASE--

TOO BAD WE COULDN'T HELP THAT COUNTERMAN--

HE'LL GET HIS MONEY BACK- WE'RE AFTER BIGGER THINGS RIGHT NOW!

A SHORT TIME LATER OVER THE CITY-

I DID A MOMENT AGO- IT WENT UP THAT DEAD-END STREET! LET'S DROP DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK--

SEE THE CAR?

IT'S A DEAD-END STREET, ALL RIGHT! BUT LOOK-- SOMEONE'S MOVED THE STREET SIGN--

THAT'S DANGEROUS- A CAR COULD DRIVE RIGHT INTO THE- UH-UH!

DEAD EN

TORCH'S HUNCH WAS RIGHT!

THAT OILY SPOT- THERE'S WHERE THE CAR WENT, TORO!

BUT I DON'T GET IT- SHH! THOUGHT I HEARD A MOAN--

A RAPID SEARCH DISCLOSES--

THERE'S OUR THIEF- BUT HE'S THROUGH FOREVER!

SAY, THIS CAN'T BE SUICIDE! LOOK, TORCH!

TORO POINTS TO THE WORDS- CUT INTO THE WOOD OF THE "DEAD-END" SIGN.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, TORCH?

I HAVE A FEELING IT MEANS A- GREAT DEAL!

HEH! HEH! HEH!

BE CAREFUL, TORCH---; BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT!

AN HOUR LATER - AND ANOTHER DEAD END MURDER - ON A RAIL-ROAD SIDING!

TOO LATE TO HELP HIM!

- AND THERE'S THAT "THE END" MESSAGE AGAIN! WHAT NOW, TORCH?

HE'LL SEE WHAT CHIEF WINTERS HAS TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS!

IN THE POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE TORCH IS EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE PHONE RINGS -

ANOTHER MURDER! SOME POOR DEVIL BURIED UNDER THIRTY HEAVY ZINC PLATES AT THE ENGRAVING PLANT!

"SO 'EN THAT'S NEWSPAPER SLANG FOR "THE END" CHIEF!

IT'S ALL SO CRAZY -- SO WEIRD! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE THAT CLAMP CASEY HAS--

RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE? RIDICULOUS, MY BOY! RIDICULOUS! HA! HA!

RIDICULOUS???

LET'S TURN THE HANDS OF TIME BACK A WEEK - AND SEE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED-

IT SEEMS THE FIENDISHLY PLANNED ASSASINATION WAS NOT PERFECT! THE HEAVILY BUILT CAR WITHSTOOD THE FALL AND THE RIVER DOUSED THE FIRE!

-- THE WRECK FLOATED, DUE TO POCKETS OF AIR, ALL NIGHT-- FINALLY COMING TO REST IN A QUIET COVE FAR DOWNSTREAM-- AS DAWN BREAKS, THE HEAVY SILENCE IS BROKEN BY A LOW MOAN --

HELP

A SHORT TIME LATER — DR. GREEVES, FAMOUS PLASTIC SURGEON AND OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THE MIRCH LANDED, FINDS THE BODY!

GREAT GODFREY! HE'S STILL ALIVE! I'D HAVE THOUGHT HE'D BEEN DEAD FOR DAYS FROM HIS APPEARANCE!

UHH!

HURRIED BACK TO LIFE, CASEY'T HARRIED MIND CONCOCTS A WEIRD TALE OF PATRIOTIC HEROISM...

-AND THE DIRTY NAZI SABOTEURS THOUGHT THEY KILLED ME WHEN I WOULDN'T BETRAY MY COUNTRY! IT'S YOUR DUTY TO PATCH ME UP, DOC! I'VE GOTTA GET THERE AND FAST!

PATCH YOU UP! HOW? YOU'RE SCARRED-BURNED, CHARRED!

USE OLD BONES-SKIN FROM ANIMALS-ANYTHING! ALL I LIKE FOR NOW IS TO GET THOSE NAZIS!

VERY WELL, I'LL TRY... BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING IN SUCH A HURRY! LET'S GO!

A FEW DAYS LATER THE UNVEILING!

HOW'LL I LOOK, DOC?

HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS, MY FRIEND! I DON'T!

PUBU-YOUR JOB IS DONE-AND DR. GREEVES IS DEEPLY SHOCKED AT THE HORRIFYING RESULT OF HIS WORK!

NO!! YOU'RE TOO- TOO... PLEASE! I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD- YOU'RE A MONSTER!

THE DOCTOR'S SPEECH SAYS LIKE ACID INTO CASEY'S ALREADY INFLAMED BRAIN...

CAN'T ALLOW, EH? HA! HA! YOU FOOL! I DIE - HA! HA!

MOZ

AGGHHH!

AND SO - THE HIDEOUSLY REBUILT CRIMINAL ESCAPES TO WREAK HIS MAD VENGEANCE AGAINST AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD!

THEY WANTED ME TO MEET THE END- WELL, I HAVE! BUT HOW THEY SHALL MEET HIM! HA! HA! I WILL BE THEIR END- I AM THE END!

YES, DEAR READER- THE BEGINNING OF THE END!

NOW LET'S RETURN TO THE SCENE IN THE POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE!

--AND HERE'S THE LAST VICTIM! WAS I RIGHT, CHIEF?

LOOK'S THAT WAY - ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF CATEY'S GANG! I'M GOING TO CALL UP THE RIOT SQUAD AND--

NO - WAIT! I HAVE A WILD HUNCH - WHY NOT LET TORO AND ME HANDLE IT TONIGHT!

WELL - ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T COME BACK EMPTY HANDED!

THE PYRO - PARTNERS FLAME TOWARD THE LATE CLAMP CATEY'S HIDEOUT...

THERE IT IS NOW, TORO!

YEAH - AND LOOK WHAT'S GOING ON, ON THE ROOF! IT THAT A PLANK?

YES, TORO - A PIRATE'S PLANK--- WHERE TO REACH THE END MEANS DEATH!

ACTION, KIDDO!

TO THE END, FOOL! YOUR END! HA! HA!

CHECK!

NO! PLEASE!

THE VICTIM DROPS -- BUT TORCH, TURNING FLAMES OFF, CARRIES HIM TO SAFETY.

HURRY, TORCH!

AGHHH!

AEGH!?

WE'LL MAKE IT- I HOPE!

THERE! EASY DOES IT!

HEDDLER!

A FEW SECONDS LATER --

"YOU OKAY, KIDDO?

"YEAH - BUT DARN, WE'VE LOST HIM AGAIN! LET'S GO!

THE MUG WE SAVED JAKE HE'S AFTER THE REST OF THE MOB AND THEY'RE HIDING OUT IN THAT MOVIE HOUSE BELOW.

"HO HUH, EH? LOOKS LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR THE END I LAST STRAW!

ON THE THEATRE.

THE PICTURE WILL BE OVER IN ONE MINUTE - BEST SEATS IN THE BALCONY!

"THAT'S FOR US, TORO!

"I GETCHA, PAL! - AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!

REACHING THE BALCONY THEY SEE THE END FLASH ON THE SCREEN AND THE END IN PERSON ON THE STAGE.

The End

"LOOK OUT! IT'S HIM!

"EEEEK!

"GET HIM, KID!

"RIGHT WITH YOU!

TORCH AND TORO ZOOM AT THE END -- TURNING THEIR FLAMES OFF ONLY AT THE LAST SECOND --

RRRIPP!

THUDDWW

BASH!

AGHH!

THE POLICE ARRIVE AND TAKE OVER --

"THANKS, TORCH -- TORO - HE'LL FRY FOR KEEP! THIS TIME!

"I GUESS HE HAS IT COMING, ALL RIGHT!

"KINDA HA! HA!

HOWEVER - THE NEXT MORNING.

"OH-OH! LISTEN TO THIS, TORO --

DAILY CHRONICLE

"THE END" FANTASTIC AVENGING KILLER MEETS HIS END AS HE HITS CELL -- AT THE END OF A FOUR FOOT ROPE!

"WELL -- THAT'S IT -- THE END OF THE END!

HUMAN TORCH

PURPLE GHOST
AND HIS
REIGN OF TERROR!

A LITTLE FAMILY IS HAVING DINNER...

YOU KNOW, MOTHER, I'M GETTING SO I LIKE THESE MEATLESS MEALS!

THE HECK WITH MEAT AS LONG AS THERE'S PLENTY OF PIE!

WHEN SUDDENLY... THE LIGHTS GO OUT!

HOW WHAT THE...

WHAT'S HAPPEN BEFORE?

HELL HE NEVER DO THAT

A GHASTLY CREATURE APPEARS OUT OF THE DARKNESS.

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING! MOVE OUT OF THIS TOWN AT ONCE!

DAD!!

REMEMBER!... YOUR FINAL WARNING!

AND, THE NEXT MORNING...

OH MY HEAVENS, JOHN- LOOK AT THIS!

ALL OUR FURNITURE- ROTTING AWAY BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!

THIS IS A JOB FOR THE POLICE! I'LL GO THERE AT ONCE!!

ONE HOUR LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS...

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, MR JONES. THE PURPLE TERROR HAS ATTACKED MANY OTHER TOWNSFOLK!

AND WE CAN FIND ABSOLUTELY NO MOTIVE FOR THE OUTRAGES!

THE NAZIS COULD-NT BE BACK OF IT, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO WAR PLANTS AROUND HERE!

NO, IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE A NAZI PLOT!

MEANTIME, THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO SPEND A QUIET EVENING AT HOME!

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PENNANT FOR THE YANKS!

DAILY CLARION PURPLE TERROR STRIKES AGAIN!

FORGET YOUR YANKS FOR A FEW MINUTES AND LISTEN TO THIS...

THE PURPLE TERROR, HUH? AND HE ONLY STRIKES AT SMALL MIDWEST TOWNS, EH?

THAT'S RIGHT! NEVER BOTHERS BIG CITIES OR WAR PLANT TOWNS!

MAYBE WE OUGHTA TAKE A LITTLE JAUNT OUT THERE AND SNOOP AROUND! WHAT DO YOU SAY, TORO?

DAILY CLARION

MYSTERY OF PURPLE TERROR DEEPENS.

AUTHORITIES CONFUSED!

SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME!

TORCH AND TORO PAY THE CHIEF OF POLICE A CALL ...

OH YES, THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO! I'VE READ A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE PATRIOTIC EXPLOITS OF YOU BOYS!

WHAT WE'RE INTERESTED IN NOW, CHIEF, IS YOUR SO-CALLED "PURPLE TERROR!"

FRANKLY, IT'S GOT US STUMPED WE NEVER KNOW WHERE IT WILL STRIKE NEXT!

THE CHIEF TAKES TORCH ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION.

HE DOES A NICE COMPLETE JOB, DOESN'T HE?

I'M ADVISING AS MANY TOWNSFOLK AS POSSIBLE TO MOVE TO THE BIG CITIES UNTIL THE SCOURGE IS OVER!

GOLLY!

MEANTIME, A FEW MILES AWAY, A MYSTERIOUS MEETING IS BEING HELD ...

DER HUMAN TORCH, EH? DEY CAN'T KEEP DEIR SNOOT OUT OF UDDER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS CAN DEY?

THIS IS ONCE HE'LL BE BORED! HE DIDN'T STAY IN HIS OWN BACKYARD EH BOSS?

HE FIGURES HE'S PRETTY TOUGH, EH? FIGURES HE'S A GREAT BIG PATRIOTIC AMERICAN CITIZEN, EH? WELL WE'LL SHOW THAT AMERICAN HUMAN TORCH A FEW TRICKS HE NEVER HEARD OF!

WE'LL SHOW AMERICA DAT DER GREAT HUMAN TORCH CAN FIZZLE OUT!

HEIL HITLER!

HEIL HITLER!

HEIL HITLER!

TORCH AND TORO DECIDE TO GO ON A VACATION!

I STILL DON'T SEE HOW YOU FIGURE WE OUGHT TO GO ON A VACATION WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CRACKING DOWN ON THE PURPLE TERROR!

YOU DON'T, HUH? I GUESS YOU'RE JUST NOT VERY BRIGHT.

I'LL ADMIT I'M DUMB, BUT I STILL SAY THIS IS ONE HECK OF A CRAZY WAY TO GO AFTER THE PURPLE TERROR!

YOU DO, EH?

LATE THAT NIGHT, TORCH AND TORO ARRIVE BACK AT THEIR HOTEL ROOM!

WELL, WE GOT A NICE TAN ANYWAY!

WE ALSO GOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE PURPLE TERROR

I SAID: WE ALSO GOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE PURPLE TERROR!

HUH?

OH ... WELL, NOW I KNOW I'M DUMB!

AND A FEW MINUTES LATER.

HOME SWEET HOME.

THAT'S RIGHT!

AFTER A HARD DAY CHASING THE PURPLE TERROR!

THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN...

YOU SEE— WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

OH-OH!

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PURPLE TERROR!

AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FLAME!

HE DOES TURN ON THE HEAT....

I TRUST THIS WON'T INTERFERE TOO SERIOUSLY WITH YOUR ACTIVITIES, MY FRIEND!

OH-OH! I THINK YOU MUST HAVE INTERFERED WITH HIS ACTIVITIES, TORCH.

HOLD UP A FIREBALL, TORCH.

WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE?

I GIVE UP!... I GOTTA PROPOSITION TO MAKE TO YOU GUYS!

OKAY! START TAKING US!

YOU GIVE THAT ME RIGHT AN' I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE PURPLE TERROR!

OKAY, PAL, STEP ON IT!

I'LL JUST TAG ALONG UP HERE AND KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR A TRAP!

THERE IT IS!

I HOPE THE PURPLE TERROR WON'T MIND OF DROPPING IN AT THIS LATE HOUR!

WHERE YOU'D TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER TO ME HOW YOU TIED IN WITH OUR LITTLE SEA-SHORE VACATION?

SURE, LIKE THAT! I FIGURED THE PURPLE TERROR WOULD BE AFTER US WHEN HE FOUND WE WERE AFTER HIM — SO I FIGURED MAYBE IT WAS POSSIBLY FOR US TO FIND OUT A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE SEE US AROUND

THE JOOKER HE FIGGER UP A FIGGER. THE JOOKER HE'LL FIND HIM!

DO YOU FIGURE THAT IS A TRUE BIT?

TUH!

A GUARD CHALLENGES TOPCH

WHO IS DAT THERE?

ACH!

TOPCH TURNS ON HIS FLAME FOR A MOMENT TO HURL A FIRE BALL AT THE GUARD.

A PRETTY HOT POTATO FOR YOU!

AND HERE'S A SECOND HOT ONE!

THERE'S THE PURPLE TERROR!

A HIS BOY?

FIVE MINUTES LATER, THE CAPTURED GUARDSMEN LEADS TOPCH AND TORO INTO PURPLE TERROR'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS!

PLAUSIBLE LOOKING CHAP, HE'S NOT

AND THEN, SUDDENLY THE LIGHTS COME ON!

NO DOUBT THIS IS THE TRAP THAT WAS WAITING FOR US!

THERE GOES OUR BAIL— AND THERE GOES THE WINDOW SHUT!

AND ALMOST MIRACULOUSLY APPEARS ON A TELEVISION SCREEN!

GREETINGS, SENSEIS! YOU ARE NOW MY GUESTS —AND MY PRISONERS!

LET 'ER RIP!

THAT'S WHAT THE THING— LET'S GET GOING TOMO!

NICE TO HAVE KNOWN YOU, MR. PURPLE TWERP!

SO LONG, PURPLE!

I WOULDN'T TRY THAT IF I WERE YA, GADZOOKS!

THE WALLS AND CEILING, GENTLEMEN, ARE TEN FEET HIGH AND ARE CONSTRUCTED OF SOLID ADAMTIC! AND YOUR PRISON HAS BEEN BUILT ON A GRANITE LEDGE!

OH-OH!

AWK!

I DON'T SUPPOSE HE FORGOT TO MAKE THE TELEVISION SCREEN OF ADAMTIC? AT ANY CHANCE?

REALLY, GENTLEMEN, YOU'RE MISSING YOUR EVERY PITFALL!

I DON'T SUPPOSE HE DID!

YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, WE'D PLANNED ALL THIS BEFORE THE WAR. OUR GIM-MIC: TERRORIZE THE PEOPLE IN THE SMALL TOWNS, THE FARM AREAS, FORCE THEM INTO BIG CITIES, SO THAT THERE'D BE A LABOR SHORTAGE ON THE FARMS ...

SO THAT THE BIG CITIES WOULD BE OVER-CROWDED, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE PANICS AND RIOTS, WHEN WE BOMBED THE BIG CITIES!

GRANITE HE SAID YOUR REASON HAS BEEN BUILT ON A GRANITE LEDGE!

HOH WHAT?

TORCH POLISH ME!

GEE! WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT GRANITE REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL! DON'T YOU THINK?

GRANITE HE PAID HIT IT TORCH!

NICE THINKING, PAL!

KIND OF TOUGH GOING, EH, PAL?

LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER!

LIKE A KNIFE — HOT KNIFE — THROUGH BUTTER.

PHEW!

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE START GETTING OUT OF HERE.

WELL, WHAT ARE WE (GRUNT) WAITING FOR?

PROVE IT!

I'M GOING TO LOOP AROUND AND SHOOT THAT PLANT CLOSE!

THERE IT IS! LET'S GO!

HIT FOR THE PUBLIC TERROR

ALARMS! STOP THEM!

I HOPE THE PUBLIC APPRECIATES WHAT WE'RE DOING FOR THEM!

BACK THE SAME WAY!

THE HUMAN TORCH CHIPS HUNKS OF STEEL OFF THE CEILING --- TO SMASH THE NAZIS WITH THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT!

MAYBE YOU NAZIS CAN USE A LITTLE TORCH BY NOW!

AGH! QUICK, KAMERAD!

IF THINGS GET TOO HOT FOR YOU, MR PURPLE TERROR, JUST SAY THE WORD!

TORCH FIGGERS HE'S GOT AN OLD "KAMERAD"!

TORCH! LOOK WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE - OUR POLICE CHIEF TURNS OUT TO BE A NAZI!

NO MATTER WAY WE TOOT IT, IT WILL HORRIBLE TO FIGHT THE PURPLE TERROR!

THE NAZIS SURRENDER!

YOU'LL NEVER GET TO BE A HUMAN TORCH THAT WAY, PAL!

KAMERAD!

ALL RIGHT YOU PUGS, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

KAMERAD - KAMERAD!

THE NEXT DAY AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS.

YOU GOT A FULL CONFESSION FROM THE LEADER, EH?

YES, THE PURPLE TERROR WAS ACTUALLY MANY MEN, LIKE THE GANGSTERS WHO TRAPPED US! THEY GOT THEIR PURPLE EFFECT BY USING A FLARE THAT GAVE OFF A HEATED LIGHT AND SMOKE

AND IT WAS THE ACID SMOKE THAT ROTTED THE VICTIMS' FURNITURE!

WELL, BOYS, UNCLE SAM OWES YOU A REAL DEBT OF GRATITUDE!

AW, FORGET IT, CHIEF!

MEN ARE AFRAID

BIG Joe Hansen shuddered. It was either bring in Duke Jackson this time, or go back to pounding a beat. And, Big Joe liked his plain-clothes job. If he were going after anyone else he would be confident of making the pinch but, Duke Jackson . . . well, Duke knew Joe when they were kids and he also knew the one weak spot in Joe's otherwise impregnable make-up.

His coupe was at the curb in front of headquarters, and despite his bulk, he slid behind the wheel with the agility of a man fifty pounds lighter.

There was no uncertainty as to direction when the car began to move. A stoolie had passed the word to Joe that Duke was hiding out at a house on Gallows Lane. He hadn't given this information to the Captain. He was hoping someone else would get the assignment to grab Duke. Of course, if he could bring in Duke quickly, another feather would be placed in his hat and that Sergeant vacancy would be looming up before him. Still his good record of arrests would mean nothing if Duke eluded him again. It was what he could do now, not what he had done, that would count. A slip would put him on the sliding board.

Gallows Lane was a road that ran along the Schuylkill River for about a mile. Several small factories and two farm houses occupied the ground off the road. Joe was familiar with this territory. He knew that one of the farm houses was too dilapidated for use. There was only one place for Duke to be lying low.

Joe pulled off the road a few hundred yards from his destination. His approach would have to be stealthy, for Duke would be on the alert.

THE air was cold and there was a rank odor to the rotted weeds as Joe pushed through a tree-studded field to get to the rear of the farm house.

A thin stream of smoke trailed upward from a chimney that needed the attention of a bricklayer, giving the only sign of life as he reached the back door. Cautious, Joe crept to a window and attempted to peer inside. The glass was dirty, the room dark, and he couldn't see a thing.

Moving back to the door, he tried the knob. The door creaked open. Joe didn't like this. Either Duke was getting careless—or he was walking into a trap. Trap or not, he had to get Duke. He stepped inside the doorway and waited a full two minutes in silence, allowing his eyes to become accustomed to the darkness. Assuring himself that there was no one in the room, he yanked the gun from the holster and headed for the closed door across the room.

His eyes focussed on the door, he thought he saw it move slightly. Suddenly his foot caught on something near the floor and he tripped, falling on his face. Stretching a wire ankle high across a room was an old trick and one he should have been looking for.

He felt a gush of air across his neck as the door swung violently open and he heard rather than saw two figures rush toward him. His gun had fallen from his hand and slid against the baseboard, so he rolled over on his back and swung a chance blow in the direction of the door.

A loud grunt filled the room as his fist hit flesh, then a hard object glanced off the side of his head, stunning him.

Joe was dragged into what had been a living-room and placed on a chair. His arms were forced around the back of the chair and his hands secured with his own handcuffs.

As the blur faded from his vision, Joe saw Duke Jackson standing in front of him, a broad smile on his face. Duke was what many people would call good looking, but the ugly twist of his mouth was all that Joe noticed.

Another man, tall and pale, stood beside Duke. The sickly look on his face told Joe that it was his breadbasket that had been in the way of Joe's lucky punch.

"Well, well," Duke said; "so it's Big Joe the Dick again. You've pinched a lot of punks since they put you in plain clothes, but me, I ain't no punk." Duke tapped the side of his head with his index finger. "Me, I use my brain. Remember how I beat you the last time you was on my trail?"

JOE eyed Duke coolly. "I was after you for a petty robbery the last time, Duke," he said. "This time it's for murder. We

know you pulled that jewelry store job and bumped off the clerk."

"Watch this, Slim," Duke said to his companion. "See how I got away from fearless Big Joe when he trailed me to my hotel room the last time.

Duke walked to a bird cage in a corner of the room. But instead of the cage housing a canary, a white mouse was inside it, nibbling on some bread crumbs. Duke opened the door and picked up the mouse.

Joe's mind flashed back to a scene in a hotel room that had taken place over a year before. He had Duke collared and was about to start to headquarters, when Duke pulled a white mouse from his pocket and flashed it in Joe's face. Duke had remembered when they were kids together in Smoky Hollow, and how one of Sammy Goldman's pet mice had run up Joe's leg. He remembered how frightened Joe had been and how he quivered even after he had shaken the mouse from his pants . . . and Big Joe was still panicky at the sight of mice. Duke escaped from the hotel while Joe was busy getting away from the mouse.

With the little rodent in his hand, Duke approached Joe. "How would you like me to put this down your neck, Copper?" he smiled.

Joe cringed as Duke held forth the mouse. He couldn't help himself. Somehow those little crawling things made him sick in the stomach. He just had a natural fear of them and that was that.

Duke brushed the mouse across Joe's face and laughed lustily as Joe almost toppled the chair backwards in an effort to avoid it.

"Here, Slim," Duke said, extending his hand toward the other crook, "you have some fun with the pride of detective headquarters. Shove this thing down his pants and he'll fly out the window."

But Slim moved out of range. "Keep that pet of yours away from me, Duke," he said, "I ain't got no likin' for them furry backs either."

Duke almost sat on the floor as he doubled up with laughter. He made a gesture as if to throw the mouse toward Slim, and Slim backed against the wall, whipping his gun from a shoulder holster.

"Cut it out, Duke! I tell you, cut it out," Slim sputted.

"And you guys are supposed to be he-men," Duke said sobering. "Neither of you would bat an eye if you had to shoot a man, or bash his head in with a blackjack, but you're afraid of mice." Duke shook his head. "It just don't make sense."

JOE felt better now that he realized other men too were afraid of mice. And his eyes showed a cunning smile. Perhaps there was a way out of his predicament.

"You know, Duke," he said suddenly, "I think I've just learned a lesson. If a rat like your partner, Slim, is afraid of mice, then I'M not! Let's see you put that thing up my pants leg and I'll prove it to you."

Duke turned suspiciously to Joe. "Gettin' brave, Copper?" he asked. "I've known you since we was kids and you were always afraid of rats and mice. You asked for this, so let's see you dance."

Joe struggled to control his fear as Duke bent toward his feet. It was as much as he could do to keep from screaming as Duke grabbed his leg.

It was now-or never! Fighting back his fear, Joe wrenched his leg free and his foot shot at Duke's hand in which he was holding the mouse.

Duke shouted in surprise. The mouse flew from his hand and flopped limply in the middle of the floor.

Lately, Joe hadn't had much time for praying but now he was fervent in asking God to make that mouse move quickly and move nearer to Slim.

The mouse rose on wobbly legs and for a few seconds its head jerked from side to side as if it were trying to determine where it could find safety.

"Grab that thing," Slim screeched. Then his gun spat flame and the mouse fell dead, its head blown off.

THE situation had changed. Joe, he was afraid of mice . . . but not of guns or men!

Although his hands were large, they were also double jointed. Many were the times when he astonished rookies at the police station by wiggling out of a pair of handcuffs.

He freed himself quickly, and sprang on top of Duke. He swung his fist at Duke's jaw and a cracking of bones was audible.

Slim turned his gun at Joe but Joe grabbed Duke's sagging form and swung him at Slim.

The report of the gun echoed loudly in the room, and the bullet caught Duke in the middle as he slumped to the floor.

Joe wrenched the gun from the astonished Slim before he could pull the trigger again.

As Joe shoved Slim toward the door, he was satisfied. And why shouldn't he be? Slim's bullet had saved the city the expense of a trial —and his chances for that Sergeant's job looked good, mighty good.

THE END

SUB-MARINER

NEW YORK CITY — A NAVAL SALVAGE CONFERENCE!

OUR PLAN IS TO SEAL ALL OPENINGS IN THE U.S.S. NORMAN AND PUMP OUT THE WATER.

I SEE. THEN THE SHIP SHOULD RISE OUT OF THE WATER --

PRECISELY! SUBMARINER, WE NEED YOUR HELP IN ESTIMATING THE UNDER-WATER WORK INVOLVED!

GLAD TO HELP!

I OBJECT! I'VE MADE ALL THE PLANS FOR THE SALVAGE JOB -- WHY BRING SUBMARINER IN?

SPEED COUNTS, MR. VALNOR! SUBMARINER CAN SAVE US MUCH TIME!

ALL RIGHT, COMMANDER, BUT SEE THAT HE DOESN'T UPSET MY SCHEDULE!

THE NEXT DAY BY THE OVER-TURNED S.NORMAN!

SHE'S LYING IN FIFTY FEET OF WATER, MAJOR! WE'VE ALREADY STARTED ON THE PRELIMINARY OPERATIONS!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT — I WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF ANY DIVERS!

SEE YOU SOON, COMMANDER!

GOOD LUCK!

I DON'T LIKE THIS!

MAJOR SWIMS SLOWLY ALONG THE HULL OF THE SHIP - - -

NOW LET'S SEE -- SHE'S SETTLED QUITE DEEPLY INTO THIS MUCK!

THEN - DANGER!

HMOA! WHAT'S THAT? SOME SORT OF BLACK SLIME --

AND ABOVE ON A DIVING BARGE - - -

HEY! LOOK A THAT BLACK OOZE COMING UP! BETTER CALL THE COMMANDER!

THE COMMANDER IS SUMMONED--

LOOK! THOSE FISH -- FLOATING ON THE SURFACE! THEY'RE DEAD! IT MUST BE POISONOUS!

AND SUBMARINER IS DOWN THERE!

THAT EVENING--

EXTRA EXTRA

SUBMARINER MISSING!!

IN THE HOME OF MORTON VALNIK - - -

IT SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR STICKING HIS NOSE INTO THIS!

A HEM! GOOT EVENING!

NO! KARL -- KARL GLUTEN -- HOW-?

AH- I SEE YOU REMEMBER ME - WAS IT IN NORWAY THAT WE MET?

YES! I ESCAPED FROM THE GESTAPO AFTER THEY'D MURDERED MY FAMILY - YOU CAN'T HARM ME HERE I SHALL TURN YOU OVER TO THE POLICE!

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! ONE WRONG MOVE AND THE GESTAPO IN NORWAY -ED- ELIMINATES YOUR DEAR MOTHER!

NO --- NOT MY MOTHER! I ---

YOU WILL DO AS I ORDER! YOU ARE TO SABOTAGE THE PLANT FOR THE SS NORMAN!

I HAVE NO CHOICE -- I'LL OBEY!

YOU SHALL GIVE ORDERS TO PUMP THE WATER OUT TOO FAST -- HOLES ARE TO BE CUT INTO THE PLATES ON THE EXPOSED SIDE -- THE SHIP WILL SMASH INTO THE DOCKS!

ONCE SHE CRASHES INTO THE PIER, SHE'LL NEVER BE SALVAGED AGAIN!

GOOD! THAT IS WHAT WE WISH! NOW GET TO WORK ON THESE PLANS!

4 EVEN O'CLOCK THAT MORNING!

THERE -- THE "FOULED" PLANS ARE COMPLETED SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR -- MUST BE GUSTEN -

WHY COMMANDER -???

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, VALNUK, FOR SABOTAGING A NAVAL PROJECT! GET THOSE PLANS, OFFICER!

VALNUK!!! I'M ASHAMED OF YOU -- IF WE FOLLOWED THESE, THE NORMAN WOULD BE DESTROYED! WHAT MADE YOU DO IT?

THEY'D NEVER BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD THE TRUTH --

I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DOING IT!

AND GIVE NO REASONS!

WELL! BUT YOU KNOW THIS IS TREASON!

MEANTIME, WHERE IS SUBMARINER? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM? LET'S GO BACK---

YEOW! THAT STUFF'S POISONOUS! THOSE FISH DIE AS SOON AS IT TOUCHES THEM!

WHEW! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

PRINCE NAMOR COMES TO THE SURFACE---

I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE ANSWER LIES RIGHT ON THIS SHIP!

WELL I MADE IT! NOW TO FIND OUT WHO WANTED TO KILL ME--- AND WHY!

BELOW THE WATER FILLED DECK, SUBMARINER FINDS---

WELL, I'LL BE--- A DIVER!

ALL RIGHT, BUDDY! I'LL HAVE SOME FUN TOO!

FIRST WE'LL TAKE YOUR AIR AWAY -- THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU EASY TO MANAGE!

HOW, FOR A LITTLE THIRD DEGREE -- I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS IN A HURRY!

ALL RIGHT, FELLOW-- TALK -- OR YOU DON'T GET ANY AIR!

I'LL TALK, BUT FOR PETE'S SAKE -- GIVE ME AIR!

I WAS HIRED TO POISON YOU---

BY WHOM? SPEAK UP!

HE PASSED OUT-- WELL, ALL HE NEEDS IS A LITTLE AIR -- I'LL GIVE HIM TIME TO COME TO!

SUBMARINER, MEANWHILE, LOOKS AROUND FURTHER--

HMMM --- WONDER WHAT'S BEYOND THAT DOOR?

WOW! WHAT A LOT OF APPARATUS! BUT, IT'S QUEER LOOKING MACHINERY!

HMMM! A WATER TIGHT GYROSCOPE — WIRES — POWER — I DON'T GET IT!

THEN —

SAY! FOOTPRINTS — DIVERS FOOTSTEPS!

THAT GUY CAME TO RATES THAN I EXPECTED AND HE'S GETTING AWAY!

HE'S OUT ON THE RIVER BED — BUT WHERE'S HE GOING?

FOLLOWING CLOSELY HANDS JEES —

WELL — I'LL BE PICKLED! A MIDGET SUB — THAT DIVER HAS BEEN WORKING FROM A SUB!

WITH THE DIVER ABOARD THE MIDGET SUBMARINE HEADS UPRIVER — —

SAY! THIS IS WORTH FOLLOWING! WON'T THE COMMANDER BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ALL THIS!

MINUTES LATER—

HMM—IT'S PUTTING ME AT A PER UNDER THE PAR! JOHN SET UP!

PRINCE HUMBO PUMPACKEL HEAR THE DOOR'S BOLT AND WATCHES FINALLY THE DOOR TOWER OPENS AND ...

HERE COMES THE DINER— BUT WHO'S THAT WITH HIM?

I COULDN'T HELP IT, GLUTEN! SUB-MARINER GOT ME FROM BEHIND!

INCOMPETENT DOG!

THE THIRD REICH HAS NO USE FOR STUPID IDIOTS!— SUBMARINER IS FREE TO YOU DIE!

THAT SHOULD SERVE AS A WARNING TO YOU ALL! GERMANY HAS SPARED NO EXPENSE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK— YOU CANNOT FAIL! NOW I GO TO SEE THAT DOG, VALNUK!

YA, HERR GLUTEN!

AND— THIS THING GETS MORE COMPLICATED BY THE SECOND! NOW VALNUK IS IN IT— GUESS MY NEXT STOP IS ON SUDAK!

MOMENTS LATER—

THE SUB BASE IS UNDER THAT SHACK— GLUTEN HASN'T COME OUT YET!

THERE HE IS— GETTING INTO A CAR. WELL, I'LL BE THERE WHEN HE VISITS VALNUK!

LATER ---

THIS FIRE FIEND WILL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SEE AND HEAR WHATT'S GOING ON!

WELL I'LL BE DOGGONED! GUTEN'S TELLING PA HOW TO ARREST THE BOSS OF THE I. F. NORMAN!

I'LL TAKE THAT THERE FLAMETHING FOR ABOUT THE PURTIEST JET OF WATER I CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TO HAVE GUTEN HOW DO---

4 SECONDS LATER ---

WAIT! GUTEN'S GOING INTO THAT DRUG STORE TO PHONE!

DRUGS

WELL I'LL BE! HE DIALED THE OPERATOR --AND FROM THE MOVEMENT OF HIS LIPS, IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S CALLING --- POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

THEN GUTEN IS DOUBLE CROSSING VALNOR--BUT WHY? I KNEW THAT ONE HAD MORE TO IT --- BUT THERE'S STILL A MISSING LINK SOMEPLACE! HMMM--I WONDER!

THE NEXT MORNING IN THE MUNICIPAL JAIL WHERE VALNOR IS BEING HELD--

YOU HEARD ME--

MY BROTHER IS HERE TO SEE ME!? I-ER ---

HERE HE IS--YOU'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES TO TALK!

HELLO, NORTON--

WHY-IT'S--

THE PAPERS SAID YOU WERE DEAD!

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ THESE DAYS! BUT HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHO TIPPED OFF THE POLICE THAT YOU WERE PLANNING SABOTAGE?

IT WAS KURT GLUTEN!

GLUTEN! I DON'T BELIEVE IT---

I BELIEVE YOU WERE FORCED TO DOCTOR THE 11 NORMANT PLANT AND I WANT TO HELP YOU--TELL ME--THE PUMPING OPERATIONS WERE STARTED TODAY, WEREN'T THEY?

YES--THE BOAT SHOULD BE PITCHED AT A FIFTY DEGREE ANGLE BY TOMORROW!

FIFTY, EH? OH---THAT'S IT! THAT GYRO---THOSE BOXES---MY GOSH--WHY COULDN'T I SEE THAT AT FIRST?

WHAT IS IT? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'VE GOT TO STOP THE PUMPING OPERATIONS AT ONCE! BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, GLUTEN WILL BE IN JAIL AND YOU'LL BE OUT!

SUBMARINER RACES AT BREAK-NECK SPEED TO THE PIER---

COMMANDER--COMMANDER!!!

IT'S SUBMARINER! HE'S ALIVE!!!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS!--! YOU MUST STOP THE PUMPING!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT--

WE CAN'T STOP THE PUMPS NOW!

OH, NO?--- WELL THEN I'LL HAVE TO STOP THEM PERSONALLY!

WAIT! STOP!

RAMOR HAYES' QUICK WORK OF THE PUMPS AND --

OH!GARSH! HE'S WRECKING THE MACHINE!

IDIOTS! DON'T STAND THERE GAPING --HELP ME!

CRUNCH

THERE! ALL OF YOUR PUMPS ARE OUT OF COMMISSION!

SUBMARINE! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

THERE'S A GYROSCOPE AND EXPLOSIVES SET DOWN IN THE HOLD -- SET TO BLOW THAT SHIP TO SMITHEREENS WHEN IT LISTED TO FORTY DEGREES -- I HAD TO STOP THOSE PUMPS!

WHEW! WE'LL SEND A DIVER BELOW AT ONCE TO DISCONNECT IT!

YOUR COMMANDER, BUT THERE ARE THINGS TO ATTEND TO!

WHEN--

RAMOR -- WAIT!

NOW FOR THAT MIDGET SUB BASE!

AT THE HIDDEN BASE—

IT'S GONE—PERHAPS SOMEONE'S IN THE SUB-CK THOUGH!

NOT A SOUL AROUND! I WONDER IF THEY WENT BACK TO THE S. S. NORMAN!?

THE UNDER-SEA PRINCE RETURNS TO THE WATER—

THERE'S THE HULL OF THE NORMAN AHEAD— BUT NO SUB!

WHAT! THERE'S A DIVER— HE'S GOT A MINE!— I'LL BET THEY FOUND OUT I STOPPED THE PUMPING OPERATIONS AND ARE PLANNING TO MAKE A LAST EFFORT TO DESTROY THAT BOAT!

OH! HERE COMES THE SUB! I'D BETTER TACKLE THAT FIRST!

BUT, THE NAZIS HAVE POSTED A GUARD.

AH! HERE COMES THE FOOL SUBMARINER!

THIS UNDERWATER GUN WILL DISPOSE OF HIM!

POO

A SHELL ZOOMS AT MAMOR AND—

BOOM!

THE CONCUSSION MERELY KNOCKED HIM OUT! HE'S STILL ALIVE!

I'LL FIX THAT— COME! HELP ME!

DRAPE HIS CARCASS OVER THE MINE!

YAH— AND VEN DER MINE IS EXPLODED, THE SUBMARINER GOES UP WITH THE SHIP! GOOT!

COME! WE GET INTO THE SUB—

GOOT— BYE, SUBMARINER!

AS THE SUB GLIDES AWAY—

WOW! WHAT A SOCK! WHERE AM I—

SWEET SUNFISH! — THIS MINE IS SET TO EXPLODE ANY SECOND— AND THE SUB IS GETTING AWAY!

LET'S SEE-- THIS THING'S HELD ON BY MAGNETIC CLAMPS - I'LL PRY IT LOOSE: UHHHH —

THERE! SHE'S FREE!

K-R-R-R

PRINCE NAMOR RACES AFTER THE SUB - —

MAYBE THIS'LL BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT -- KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

THERE - NOW THEY CAN EXPLODE THE INFERNAL THING! I'M SCRAMMING!

WHILE INSIDE THE SUB --

WE ARE OUT FAR ENOUGH -- IT IS TIME --- NOW!

THE SWITCH IS CLOSED -- WITH A TREMENDOUS ROAR, THE MINE EXPLODES BLOWING THE SUB AND THE WOULD - BE SABOTEURS INTO ETERNITY!

BOOM!

MEANWHILE BY THE S.S. NORMAN --

LOOK, SIR! AN EXPLOSION!

GOSH! THAT LOOKS AS IF A MINE HAD BEEN EXPLODED! BETTER INVESTIGATE!

-- HEY --

HI, COMMANDER! HOW'D YOU LIKE THE SHOW?

WHAT HAPPENED?

SOME NAZIS HAD A MIDGET SUB BELOW -- AND A MINE ALL HOOKED UP TO THE NORMAN! BUT I MANAGED TO TURN THE TABLE ON THEM!

I WISH YOU'D CLARIFY THINGS FOR ME!

I WILL, COMMANDER -- BUT FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO GET DOWN TO THE JAIL TO SEE VALNUK!

U.S.

VALNUK! OH- SO HE'S IN THIS DEEPER THAN WE'D SUSPECTED!

YOU'RE WRONG! VALNUK IS COMPLETELY INNOCENT - I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THAT BEFORE WE SEE VALNUK!

WHAT!?

PRINCE NAMOR TELLS THE COMMANDER ABOUT GLUTEN AND HOW HE FORCED VALNUK TO DOCTOR THE PLANS - THEN-

COMMANDER!!! SUBMARINER!!

WELL, VALNUK, WE OWE YOU AN APOLOGY --- PRINCE NAMOR EXPLAINED YOUR PART IN THIS TO ME!

BUT IF THE GUILT RESTS WITH GLUTEN, HE SHOULD BE IN JAIL - HE'S PROBABLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY NOW!

NO - SIR! HE IS IN JAIL! COME-

THERE HE IS --

BUT HOW --??? IF YOU SANK THAT SUB --

OH, I GOT HIM RIGHT AFTER HE TELEPHONED THE POLICE LAST NIGHT-- I KNOCKED SOME INFORMATION OUT OF HIM --- THEN DOUSED HIM WITH LIQUOR AND PUT HIM IN JAIL AS A "DRUNK" FOR SAFEKEEPING.

BUT WHY DID GLUTEN GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO FRAME ME?

THAT'S THE INFO. I WANTED FROM HIM - IT'S DYNAMITE - LISTEN-

GLUTEN INTENDED TO BRING PHONY PAPERS TO YOUR TRIAL--PAPERS THAT WOULD INVOLVE THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND MAKE THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WRECK! HE PLANNED TO USE THE FACT THAT VALNUK IS STILL A CITIZEN OF THE FREE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT!

I SEE! GLUTEN PLANNED TO DESTROY THE BOAT AND THEN TO USE THAT TO DESTROY NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS! WHEW! LUCKY YOU STOPPED GLUTEN IN TIME!

THAT CLEARS YOU, VALNUK-

I AM INCERFLY GRATEFUL!

THEN -:-

JAY, THIS CABLEGRAM'S BEEN CHASING YOU ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, VALNUK!

ME? --- OH --- GREAT JOY! IT'S FROM THE FREE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT IN LONDON! MY FAMILY HAS ESCAPED NORWAY IN A SMALL BOAT AND IS NOW IN LONDON!

SWELL! NAMOR -- THIS STORY HAS A DOUBLE HAPPY ENDING!

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SUBMARINER WILL BE BACK WITH ANOTHER GREAT STORY OF THE SEA IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF HUMAN TORCH -- AND IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL ALL THE DEPRESSED PEOPLE ARE GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM IF YOU KEEP ON BUYING WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

CRASHING THRU!

TO
VICTORY
WITH
ACTION-THRILLS
ADVENTURE
IN THE NEW

BIG FALL ISSUE #11

10¢

OF

SUB-MARINER

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Also 16 SPINE TINGLING PAGES OF THE ANGEL

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HUMAN TORCH

Smashing
NEW YORK'S BLACK MENACE!

RUSSIA ---

GERMANY ---

ITALY---

THE TIDE TURNS --- HITLER'S ARMIES ARE TAKING A BEATING!

DER FUEHRER GETS THE NEWS OF HIS STAGGERING LOSSES!--

WAS? DON'T THOSE STUPID ALLIES KNOW MY ARMIES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE IN AMERICA NOW? WHY DON'T YOU THINK OF SOMETHING? ACH! YOU ARE ALL DUMKOPFS!

PLEASE, MEIN FUHRER, THERE'S A NEW THING --IT WILL MAKE US STRONG AND POWERFUL! A BALLOON BOMB--THAT ISSAC WAS--MITER!

SO! NOW YOU TRY TO TELL ME, DER FUEHRER, HOW TO SPEAK GERMAN! WELL, WHERE IS DAT STUFF? WHY HAVEN'T YOU USED IT?

IT IS A LIQUID EXPLOSIVE INCENDIARY, ADOLF! NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND IT--NOTHING!

OH, AN INCENDIARY! WELL, TRY IT OUT ON THE FIFTH AVE FIRST--KOPF, GET OUT OF HERE!

A WEEK LATER IN AMERICA ---

A SHORT WAVE BROADCAST PICKED UP FROM GERMANY ANNOUNCED THAT THE NAZIS HAVE MADE ALL ARRANGEMENTS TO SHIP THE FORMULA FOR THIS DANGEROUS NEW SECRET WEAPON TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD --- TO AMERICA FOR USE BY NAZI SPIES AND SABOTEURS!

BANG-STAR

NAZI SECRET WEAPON WIPES OUT RUSSIAN ARMY AT VORONEZH!

THIS NEW THREAT TO AMERICA ABOUT IT, TORCH AND TORO — THEY GO STRAIGHT TO F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS TO OFFER THEIR HELP!

I'M GLAD YOU CAME, TORCH—I WAS ABOUT TO CALL YOU! AUTOMATIC WE'RE KEEPING A CONSTANT WATCH IN EVERY POSSIBLE PLACE!

AW— THEY CAN'T GET THAT STUFF OVER HERE!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, TORCH! IT MUST HAVE TAKEN THEM SINCE PEARL HAS ALREADY CHECKED THEM CLEAR!

AFTER THE INTERVIEW—

GOSH, TORCH — DO YOU THINK THE UNIONIZED STUFF WILL BE TOO HOT FOR US TO HANDLE?

WE WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH COUNTED TO FIND OUT

BUT, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF TOWN, MEET PLANE GET UNDER WAY!

WHEN WE GET DIS MAPPEL OUT BELLIGERATOR, WE VILL BLOW UP EVERYTHING! FIRST DER GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE, DEN—

BUT, HERR WOLF, VEN VILL WE GET IT?

I DO NOT KNOW YET— BUT, IT WILL BE SOON!

VELL VE MAKE DER VAR VETTER HERE?

HEE—DAT IS VAY DEY SEND US DER FORMULE! VHEN VE GET IT INTO PRODUCTION OUR FUEHRER VILL CONQUER DE WHOLE VORLD!

THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY—

HA! THE GOON THAT JUB HARNEFF'S GREAT CAT! WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO — SEE SOMEONE LISTEN TO THIS — SOUNDS SPREAD IT COMING OVER HERE TO RUN — GOON — WE CAN GO, CAN'T WE?

SURE — LIKE TO SEE HIM MYSELF!

— STAR —

HUH — LISTEN TO THIS HORROR! "GOBBLES SAYS IT'S HOT TIME THE OLD BALL GAME! LIKE SWEDEN WILL RUN FROM THEIR NEST IN FEAR FOR NO MISSIN WALKER WILL DROP EXCEPT ON THE BIG NEST OF THE REICH!

HE'S STILL SPOUTING ABOUT THAT WAR WATER? SAY, TORCH — LOOK AT THAT, THOUGH! GOSH, THAT GUY'S GREAT, ISN'T HE? EVERY RECORD IN THE —

SWEDISH RUNNER IN — TORO! I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING! C'MON!

WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE F.B.I.!

WHAT'S UP, TORCH? WHAT DID I GET? WHY DON'T YOU LET A GUY IN ON THINGS?

MINUTES LATER AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS! — —

YOU SEE, WHEN CERTAIN WORDS ARE ELIMINATED, YOU HAVE A MESSAGE!

NEUTRAL — SWEDEN — WILL RUN — BELLUMWATER — WILL DROP!

NOW I GET IT! GREGG IS LINED UP TO CURRY THE FORMULA! HE'S A NAZI — AND I THOUGHT THAT HE'D HAVE TO BE A SPELL GUY!

HOT TO TROT, TORO — HE MAY BE WRONG — OR THEY COULD BE PLANTING IT ON HIM WITHOUT HIS KNOWING IT!

THE F.B.I. ACT — SET A MAN PLACED IN THE AIRPORT BAGGAGE ROOM! WHEN GREGG ARRIVES, HE'S HERE I WANT HIS BAG THOROUGHLY SEARCHED AND ACTION A PIC TO TAIL HIM.

YES, SIR!

"I'LL HAVE TO LET HIM IN TO SEE TORCH"

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH A BIG FAN JOB TODAY — IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TRY CLOSE PHONE TO HIM TO FIND OUT IF HE'S UP TO ANYTHING!

HERE COMES THE CLIPPER NOW!

ONE WEEK LATER AT THE CITY AIRPORT—

ACH, DER TORCH IS HERE! I WONDER IF HE SUSPECTS? IT DOES NOT MATTER — VE VILL GET DER FORMULA ANYHOW — OUR PLAN IS TOO CLEVER TO FAIL! LET THEM TOUCH HIS GREGS, DEY VILL FIND NOTHING!

CAN TORCH BE WRONG?

VOOM, AT THE PLANE COMES TO EARTH—

HOLD IT, MR GREGS.

OH MR GREGS, I'M TORCH'S NO. 1 HERO WORSHIPPER! MAY I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH WHILE THEY REFUEL IT HERE, SIR?

HOW DO YOU DO, MR. GREGS. TORCH'S PHONE HERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR WONDERFUL POWERS!

I AM SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU, MR. AND YOURS, MR GREGS. TORCH IS QUITE AN ADMIRER.

YOU ARE JUST WHAT WE NEED ON YOUR RUN!

LATER ABOUT OUT NEXT DAY—

HOLY SMOKES! — I'M WORKING UP STEAM!

GOSH, I'M ALL BURNED OUT! AND WHAT FOR? WE'VE BEEN WITH THAT FELLOW SINCE HE ARRIVED AND HAVEN'T GOT A THING ON HIM YET!

PATIENCE, TORO!

GET HIM!

OH! HE WILL DO!

GET HIS HAT CLOSER! AND — PERHAPS NOTHING MUST GO WRONG! I'VE HAD LOTS PLANS FOR THIS FIGHT! I — I DON'T CAN — I MUSTN'T FAIL TONIGHT!

GET IT!

THEN THERE'S COME — SO MUCH MUST BE A MISCARRIAGE BUT THEY HAVEN'T ANYBODY!

WE'LL FIND OUT HOW — HE'S RUNNING HERE!

DOWN ON THE TRACK ...

OH — MY LACK! TAKE OVER, I'LL GO TO THE END OF THE LINE!

OKEY — GET OUT OF MY WAY!

GOOD! WE DID IT!

AH — DAT WAS SO EASY!

THAT IT IT!

SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

I THOUGHT GRIPAS WAS SUPPOSED TO RUN LAST!

AH NAH — SOMETHING'S GOING ON AND I WISH I COULD FIGURE IT OUT!

THE RELAY RACE CONTINUES! ... FINALLY GREGG TAPES THE BATON!

HERE HE COMES! WHAT A FOOT DERE VILL BE WEN I RUN OUT OF DEE ARENA - HA! HA!

LOOK AT GREGG GO! THEY CAN'T LOSE -- HE'S LAPPED THE OTHER --

OH, GOSH - HOW SIMPLE! FLAME, TORCH!

HEY- WAIT FOR ME!

THE FLAMING DUO BLAZE DOWN ONTO THE TRACK!

HURRY, TORCH - WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!

OH, NO YOU DON'T! GIVE ME THAT STICK!

TORCH! VERDAMMT! DER STICK - I MUST GET IT!

DEP BELLUMASTER! WE MUST SAVE IT!

MATCH IT, TORO, HE'S GOT FIREHOT!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!

AGH!

WOLF! GET DIE!

SUDDENLY—

I'LL GO AFTER HIM— MATCH GRABS AND TAKES GUN!

THE LIGHTS— FLAME ON! GET THAT MAN! TORCH, HE HAS THE STICK!

TORO SHOT HIT CAPTURED TO F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS— GRABS TELLS HIS STORY!

YOU SEE, WHEN I ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO RUN IN AMERICA, THE NAZIS KIDNAPED MY PARENTS— PUT THEM IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP AND THREATENED TO KILL THEM IF I DIDN'T FOLLOW THEIR ORDERS!

BUT I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO REAL!

IT IS, TORO— BUT THE NAZIS HAVE THEIR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS! I AM SORRY THAT I COULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THAT FORMULA BUT—

THEN, TORCH ARRIVES!— ALONE!

TORCH— DIDN'T YOU GET HIM?

NO — I LOST HIM IN THE CROWD! THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE I COULDN'T TURN ON MY FLAME!

OH, GOSH — HE GOT AWAY WITH THE BELLUM-IACTER!

I HAVE A LEAD — THEY CALLED HIM WOLF! THAT WOULDN'T BE HIS REAL NAME TO— AH, THAT MUST BE IT! WOLF CHEMICAL COMPANY! WHAT A SWEET SET-UP! — FOR THE NAZIS!

BAUMHILL AT HIS CHEMICAL PLANT HOLF GEFT ZU HORN!

HERE IZ DER FORMULA! GEFT ZU DER TOPCH RIGHT TO [illegible] HE! HOW I HAVE DER BELLUMYACZER UND TONIGHT IZ DESTROY DER WASHINGTON BRIDGE! -HAHA TOWNFALL!

SEE HOW I HAVE THAT FOUR GOT IN AN HOUR!

PRECIOUS TIME PASSES----

IT VILL BE PRICK HERE VILA IN JUST A MOMENT--SUNSET ALLIZ HOW IN DER SKY!

GOOD! I THINK HE APPROACH FROM DER NORTH--HE VILL BURN IT WITH BELLUMYACZER! THEN HE CAN'T PUNISH [illegible] CAN!---

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE PARTY, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANY DAMAGE WITH THAT STUFF WHILE I'M IN AROUND!

OOH, PHOOEY! HERE!

OH, YOU VILL NOT BE AROUND--I THINK YOU HOW POWERFUL IZ DUR BELLUMYACZER!

HA! VAT DER GREAT TOPCH IZ DESTROYED BY FIRE!

UGHHH!

ACCCHH!

WOLF AGREE! NO TIME --

WHAT ABOUT DOSE TWO?

TORCH? HE VILL BE NOTHING BUT ASHES! VEN VE RETURN, VON HOWR VE HAVE VORK TO DO!

WHAT DOES HAPPEN TO TORCH AND TOPO AFTER WOLF LEAVES?

WOW! WHAT HIT ME?

WAS HATED -- BE REMBERED * THAT'S THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER BEEN KNOCKED OUT AND KEPT OUR FLAMES ON!

GOSH -- I FEEL GUILTY! SO DAT IS THE FAMOUS BELLAMMACER! WELL, WE LIVED THROUGH IT -- BUT TORCH, WHAT DID KNOCK US OUT?

THE STICKUM RUBS OFF TORO -- I GUESS IT WAS THE PRESSURE OF THE STREAM THAT KNOCKED US -- WE KEPT ON FLAMING BECAUSE THAT STUFF IS AN INCENDIARY!

THERE? NO ONE HERE BUT US YOU CAN BET YOUR FIRE POWER THOSE NAZIS ARE UP TO SOMETHING PLENTY

BUT WHAT? I MEAN THIS STUFF MUST BE SCORCHED THERE MUST BE A CLUE HERE SOMEPLACE!

WELL, HERE'S SOME KIND OF A PAPER --- LOOKS LIKE A BLUEPRINT OF SOMETHING

IT IS A BLUEPRINT -- SOME KIND OF ROAD PLANT -- BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO BLOW ---

WAIT -- HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TORCH! WHAT IS IT? AN ARCH?

ARCH?! WAIT! THESE ARE PLANS FOR A BRIDGE TORO! NOW WE'VE GOT IT -- THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE! C'MON, KID, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!

TORCH AND TORO FLAME IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE DANGEROUS WOLF!

GOSH, TORCH... SUPPOSING WE'RE TOO LATE!

WISH I KNEW HOW MUCH OF A HEAD-START THEY HAVE!

AND, AT THE GREAT BRIDGE!

CAREFUL THERE! DIE STUFF EXPLODES TOO -- SET IT DOWN CLOSE TO DER BASE OF DER BRIDGE!

HERE'S THE BRIDGE, TORCH -- STILL STANDING!

VAIT, HERR WOLF, IF VE DESTROY DIS END OF DER BRIDGE FIRST VILL IT NOT FALL ON US?

ACH -- HOW STUPID OF COURSE! I'M TOO ANXIOUS! VE MUST MOVE DER TANK OUT!

ON THE RAMP ---

DID A TRUCK GO OVER THAT BRIDGE IN THE LAST HALF-HOUR?

TRUCK? NO -- NO TRUCKS AT ALL THIS EVENING!

TOLL

GOSH, TORCH, DO YOU THINK WE HAVE THE WRONG BRIDGE?

I DON'T KNOW, TORO! MAN -- WHERE WOULD YOU ATTACK A BRIDGE IF YOU WANTED TO DESTROY IT?

TOLL

FROM THE BOTTOM OF C... DAY!

RIGHT! AND THERE THEY ARE! HURRY TORO -- BUT NO FLAMES!

GOSH -- NO -- THAT STUFF BURNS TOO EASILY!

HURRL TORO!

BOY, AM I GLAD GABBE GOT ME INTO COMBAT!

HE'S GOT HIS HAND ON THE VALVE! TORO, WHILE I GET THOSE NAZIS, YOU DASH AHEAD AND KNOCK THAT TANK INTO THE RIVER!

RIGHT-- HERE I GO! WISH ME LUCK!

AH! WE ARE ALMOST READY!

TORO RACES OUT--

OH, NO YOU DON'T!

VAS IST--- TORCH--NO! IT CANNOT BE!

MEIN GOTT! IT VILL EXPLODE!

IT DOES EXPLODE!

HARMLESSLY...

WELL, I'LL BE DARNED! THE WATER PUT IT OUT!

OH, BOY, TORCH-- SAVE ME A COUPLE! IF I'D KNOWN ALL THIS CHASE WAS JUST TO PUT OUT A FIRE --- I'D HAVE PUT MORE TIME IN CLEANING UP NAZIS!

SORRY, KID -- THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM AND OF THE BELLIGERENTS!

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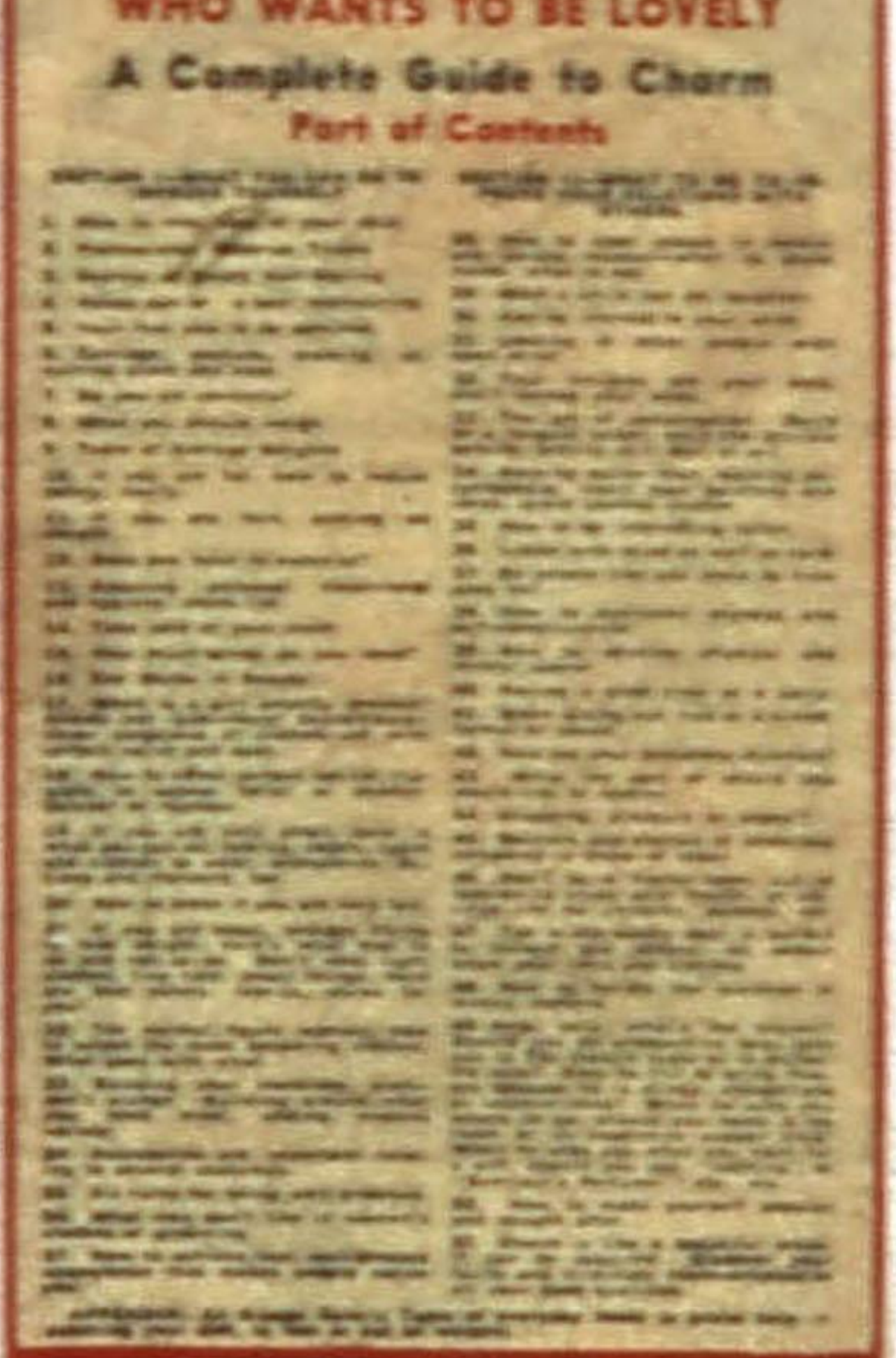

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